GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2804
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
CRITERIA FOR BELOW POVERTY LINE .
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any criteria to identified the people living below poverty line in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have oppose the existing criteria as the present criteria could not achieve desired success;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any proposal to review the existing criteria is under consideration of the Government keeping in view the increase inflation rate;

(f) if so, the details thereof; (g) the details of present ratio of people living below poverty line, State-wise; and (h) the details of steps taken or being taken to alleviate poverty in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINSTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINSTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES
SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) & (b) : At the behest of Ministry of Rural Development the State Governments conduct the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census at the beginning of each Five Year Plan period. The Census covers all the families in the villages and the objective is to identify the families below the poverty line. Multiple Criteria, comprising of household occupation, housing condition, number of earners, asset position (Land operated/owned, number of livestock owned, consumer durable used etc.) were used for identification of the BPL families during 9th Five Year Plan. The criteria for identification of the BPL families are same in all States/UTs.
Further, Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation for identifying BPL families is using the State-specific poverty lines and seven non economic parameters − living conditions comprising parameters of
(i) roof,
(ii) floor
(iii) water
(iv) sanitation
(v) education level
(vi) type of employment and
(vii) status of children in a house. In addition, the Planning Commission estimates the state-specific poverty ratios following Expert Group methodology from state-specific poverty lines and distribution of persons by expenditure groups obtained from the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on consumer expenditure.
(c) : With regard to the estimation of poverty the Planning Commission has received representation from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa.
(d) : The State Government of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka represented that poverty be estimated after eliminating the impact of the price depressing effect of the food subsidy scheme, funded from the State Exchequer. The Government of Andhra Pradesh at a later stage also represented for reversion to the earlier methodology of poverty estimation, known as the Task Force method. The Government of Orissa has represented for adopting the national level poverty line for estimation of poverty in the State.
(e) & (f) : The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years.
(g) : The latest estimate of poverty computed by the Planning Commission is available at national and State level for the year 1993-94. These are based on the large sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in its 50th Round and are given in Statement-I.
(h) : The strategy for Poverty Alleviation includes acceleration of economic growth with a focus on employment intensive sectors, access to basic minimum services for improving the quality of life of the people, and direct State intervention in the form of targeted anti poverty programmes. Anti-poverty programmes supplement the growth effort and protect the poor from destitution, sharp fluctuations in employment and incomes, and social insecurity. The specifically designed anti poverty programmes for generation of both self employment and wage employment in rural areas have been redesigned and restructured in 1999-2000 in order to enhance their efficacy/impact on the poor and improve their sustainability. Self and wage employment schemes in the urban areas were also restructured w.e.f. 01.12.1997 under Swarnjayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana. In order to improve the efficacy of the programmes there is

greater people's participation in the planning and implementation of the programmes through the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Self-help and user groups and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Annexure- I

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Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by States - 1993-94

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S.No.	State	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%age of Persons
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79.49	15.92	74.47	38.33	153.97	22.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.62	45.01	0.11	7.73	3.73	39.35
3.	Assam	94.33	45.01	2.03	7.73	96.36	40.86
4.	Bihar	450.86	58.21	42.49	34.50	493.35	54.96
5.	Goa	0.38	5.34	1.53	27.03	1.91	14.92
6.	Gujarat	62.16	22.18	43.02	27.89	105.19	24.21
7	Haryana	36.56	28.02	7.31	16.38	43.88	25.05
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.40	30.34	0.46	9.18	15.86	28.44
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.05	30.34	1.86	9.18	20.92	25.17
10.	Karnataka	95.99	29.88	60.46	40.14	156.46	33.16
11.	Kerala	55.95	25.76	20.46	24.55	76.41	25.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	216.19	40.64	82.33	48.38	298.52	42.52
13.	Maharashtra	193.33	37.93	111.90	35.15	305.22	36.86
14.	Manipur	6.33	45.01	0.47	7.73	6.80	33.78
15.	Meghalaya	7.09	45.01	0.29	7.73	7.38	37.92
16.	Mizoram	1.64	45.01	0.30	7.73	1.94	25.66
17.	Nagaland	4.85	45.01	0.20	7.73	5.05	37.92
18.	Orissa	140.90	49.72	19.70	41.64	160.60	48.56
19.	Punjab	17.76	11.95	7.35	11.35	25.11	11.77
20.	Rajasthan	94.68	26.46	33.82	30.49	128.50	27.41
21.	Sikkim	1.81	45.01	0.03	7.73	1.84	41.43
22.	Tamil Nadu	121.70	32.48	80.40	39.77	202.10	35.03
23.	Tripura	11.41	45.01	0.38	7.73	11.79	39.01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	496.17	42.28	108.28	35.39	604.46	40.85
25.	West Bengal	209.90	40.80	44.66	22.41	254.56	35.66
26.	Andaman & Nic.	0.73	32.48	0.33	39.77	1.06	34.47
27.	Chandigarh	0.07	11.35	0.73	11.35	0.80	11.35
28.	Dadra & N. Haveli	0.72	51.95	0.06	39.93	0.77	50.84
29.	Daman & Diu	0.03	5.34	0.15	27.03	0.18	15.80
30.	Delhi	0.19	1.90	15.32	16.03	15.51	14.69
31.	Lakshadweep	0.06	25.76	0.08	24.55	0.14	25.04
32.	Pondicherry	0.93	32.48	2.38	39.77	3.31	37.40
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All India		2440.31	37.27	763.37	32.36	3203.68	35.97

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh,Meghalaya, Mizoram,Manipur,Nagaland and Tripura.

2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.

3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshdweep.

4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.

5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty ofChandigarh. 6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

7 Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveliis used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir.